

American Telegraph

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WASHINGTON: SATURDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 30, 1851.

PRICE 2 CENTS.

Message of the Mayor of Washington.
The following message was transmitted to the City Council on Monday last by the Mayor:

MAYOR'S OFFICE, August 25, 1851.
Gentlemen of the Board of Aldermen and Board of Common Council:

In the following communication I shall lay before you a summary of the affairs of the Corporation for the past year, with a few suggestions for your consideration. The following statement exhibits the receipts and expenditures for the fiscal year ending 30th June last:

GENERAL FUND.

Drafts upon the several Wards..... \$84,004 75
Drawn from appropriation by the United States for Canal..... 15,000 00
Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company..... 4,112 78
From Licenses, Canal, Asylum, &c..... 44,589 84
Total..... \$147,707 37

EXPENDITURES.

Interest and redemption of funded debt..... \$55,047 44
Improvement of canal and bridges..... 33,509 87
Schools..... 11,766 26
Asylum..... 7,063 40
Judicial expenses, fire companies, streets, &c..... 45,087 59
Balance..... 253 83
Total..... \$155,707 39

SINKING FUND.

1850, July 1, balance..... \$16,142 27
1851, June 30, drawn from general fund..... 58,000 00
Total..... \$74,142 27

EXPENDITURES.

1851, June 30. Interest on debt..... \$44,978 30
Redemption of funded debt..... 12,400 00
Balance..... 16,763 97
Total..... \$74,142 27

SCHOOL FUND.

1851, June 30. Int. on stock (school fund)..... \$3,032 40
School tax..... 3,474 00
Draft upon the general fund..... 11,696 36
Total..... \$18,192 66

EXPENDITURES.

Teachers' salaries..... \$10,515 92
Furnishing houses and contingencies..... 2,120 00
Balance overdrawn previous year..... 5,556 74
Total..... \$18,192 66

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF THE SEVERAL WARDS.

Tabular Statements of the Receipts and Expenditures of the several Wards, General, School, and Sinking Funds, to 30th June, 1851.

WARD.	RECEIPTS.	EXPENDITURES.
1st Ward.	\$1,234 56	\$1,012 34
2nd Ward.	1,012 34	987 65
3rd Ward.	987 65	876 54
4th Ward.	876 54	765 43
5th Ward.	765 43	654 32
6th Ward.	654 32	543 21
7th Ward.	543 21	432 10
8th Ward.	432 10	321 00
9th Ward.	321 00	210 89
10th Ward.	210 89	100 78
11th Ward.	100 78	90 67
12th Ward.	90 67	80 56
13th Ward.	80 56	70 45
14th Ward.	70 45	60 34
15th Ward.	60 34	50 23
16th Ward.	50 23	40 12
17th Ward.	40 12	30 01
18th Ward.	30 01	20 90
19th Ward.	20 90	10 79
20th Ward.	10 79	00 68
21st Ward.	00 68	90 57
22nd Ward.	90 57	80 46
23rd Ward.	80 46	70 35
24th Ward.	70 35	60 24
25th Ward.	60 24	50 13
26th Ward.	50 13	40 02
27th Ward.	40 02	30 91
28th Ward.	30 91	20 80
29th Ward.	20 80	10 69
30th Ward.	10 69	00 58

RECAPITULATION.

GENERAL FUND..... \$155,707 37
EXPENDITURES..... 155,423 28
Balance..... \$284 09

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF THE SEVERAL WARDS.

Receipts..... \$135,606 23
Expenditures..... 155,423 28
Balance..... \$19,812 16

SINKING FUND.

Receipts..... \$74,142 27
Expenditures..... 74,142 27
Balance..... \$0 00

SCHOOL FUND.

Receipts..... \$18,192 66
Expenditures..... 18,192 66
Balance..... \$0 00

WARD FUNDS.

Amount deposited by Collector to the credit of the several Wards for the year ending June 30th, 1851..... \$118,915 10
Amount deposited by Collector to the credit of the several Wards for the year ending June 30th, 1850..... 98,713 97
Excess of deposits this year..... \$20,201 13

Drawn by general fund for the year ending 30th June, 1850..... \$73,185 12
Drawn by general fund for the year ending 30th June, 1851..... 84,004 75
Excess this year..... \$10,819 63

AMOUNT TO THE CREDIT OF THE SEVERAL FUNDS, JULY 1st, 1851.

Five per cent. stock..... \$90,040 00
Six per cent. stock..... 68,390 00
Total..... \$158,430 00

REDEEMED DURING PAST YEAR.

At cost, principal and interest..... \$12,470 00
At cost, principal and interest..... 12,528 43
Total..... \$25,000 00

FUNDING DEBT ON JULY 1st, 1851.

Five per cent. stock..... \$97,860 00
Six per cent. stock..... 67,530 00
Total..... \$165,390 00

BEING A REDUCTION IN THREE YEARS AND NINE MONTHS OF \$23,560.

These tables exhibit the gratifying fact that the receipts from taxes for the past year exceeded those of the previous year \$20,201 13. This increase resulted from the operation of the law requiring the payment of taxes in advance.

It will be perceived that the expenditures of the general fund have been very large this year, requiring a draft upon the Wards of \$10,819 63 more than the amount last year, and to that extent reducing the amount applicable to Ward improvements.

The expenditures for Ward improvements have been much larger than those of the preceding year, and have so far been pushed to the utmost verge which their means would permit. The amount from licenses exhibits a slight increase over that of last year. I am not satisfied that justice is secured to the Corporation and tax-payers in the taxation of stock, securities, &c., and I beg leave to call your attention and that of the Assessors to the subject.

WASHINGTON ASYLUM.

The number received in the Infirmary during the past year was 220; number on 30th June, 1850, 40; total during the year, 260; number discharged, 181; deceased, 29; remaining 30th June, 1851, 80. Of total number received, 36 were non-residents; 39 colored, and 41 under 20 years of age.

Number in workshop June 30th, 1850, 48; commitments during past year, 473; total during the year, 521; number discharged during the year, 477; deceased, 7; number remaining 30th June last, 37. Of this number 145 were non-residents, 141 colored, 31 under 20 years of age, and 309 were committed for drunkenness.

EXPENSES OF THE ASYLUM.

The Commissioners of the Asylum report that the amount appropriated and received for support of poor, lunatics, and for the improvement of house and grounds, including balance of last year, was..... \$6,410 36

That the grounds yielded..... \$1,444 78

And that the amount received for support of poor, lunatics, and for the improvement of house and grounds, including balance of last year, was..... 295 00

Total..... \$8,150 14

That there has been expended for the objects above specified..... 6,950 13

Leaving in their hands..... \$1,200 01

The report of the Commissioners shows that a considerable quantity of work has been done by the inmates in the building and making up useful articles of clothing. The receipts from the garden this year exceed those of last year \$356 61; and, in view of this consideration, an enlargement of the garden grounds, as suggested by the Commissioners, seems highly proper.

CITY SURVEYS.

This officer reports the amount of fees since the 1st April, 1850, to be \$134, which \$76 is unpaid. I have an account of fees received during the past year previous to the 1st of April by his predecessor. In reference to this office, I beg leave to call your attention to a report made by a select committee to the Common Council on the 11th of March last, urging in strong terms a reorganization of the office, and a better service. I can bear testimony to the laborious efforts of the present incumbent to keep pace with the increasing duties of his office, but unless additional force is given both public and private interests must continue to be met as injuriously affected.

FIRE APPARATUS.

In compliance with a resolution of the lower Board, I have the honor to submit a report of the Inspector of the Fire Apparatus. The several companies, with the exception of the Columbia, are reported by him to be in serviceable condition. I regret to say that occasional manifestations of riotous conduct are still displayed by persons ostentatiously in the ranks of the companies. I beg leave to renew the suggestions which I made last year, and further to recommend that the nature and extent of the powers of the Corporation over the several companies and their apparatus be made the subject of special investigation. It may be found that an application to Congress will be necessary to enable the Corporation to effect a thorough reorganization.

CITY CANAL.

The receipts from the western section of the Canal for the past year amounted to \$2,356 43, in excess of those of the previous year, \$336 43. The excess of the eastern to \$215 16, being an increase of \$61 30. In explanation of the small amount received from the western section during the past year, it is proper to state that the wharves were not in a condition to be rented before the 1st May. The surplus for which those now completed have been rented until the 1st of May next in \$5,630 50, and the residue, it is now known, can be readily rented when finished. In view of a revival of business upon the line of the Canal, a revision of the terms of rental is, in my opinion, a very necessary measure. The bridge at 4th street is in a very dilapidated condition, and I therefore earnestly invite your attention to the recommendation of the Commissioner that a draw or pivot bridge be constructed at that point, and that the Canal be enlarged to the depth required by law, and the whole work has been faithfully superintended by the Commissioners.

As a matter directly connected with the usefulness of the Canal, I invite your immediate attention to the law approved January 8, 1851, entitled "An act to secure the navigation of the Potomac and Annapolis rivers." It is wholly insufficient to protect the navigation from wrecks and similar obstructions. I think it would be advisable to invest the Commissioners of the Canal with powers similar to those exercised by port wardens in other places for these objects.

No return has been made of the number of hogheads of tobacco inspected by the late inspector. The following quantities of lumber, fuel, flour, &c., have been reported by the respective officers:

As having been measured, inspected, and weighed during the past year:

Floor..... 1,050 barrels
Soft coal..... 400 do
Soft coal..... 55,000 bushels
Lumber..... 725,000 feet
Wood..... 55,854 cords
Lumber..... 4,000,000 feet

BOARD OF HEALTH.

In regard to the health of the city, I beg leave to make the following extracts from the report of the Board:

"In concluding this report, we take great pleasure in announcing the healthfulness of our city during the past year in comparison with epidemic and contagious diseases of a very violent and fatal character, which prevailed to a very limited extent, and was generally confined to the lower and poorer classes of society, who resided in the suburbs of the city, and who had never enjoyed the advantages of vaccination. One single case of cholera asphyxia occurred, and that was brought from the West. Our list of deaths proves that the frequency of deaths from this class of diseases usually ascribed to the influence of climate and locality, much apprehension was felt for the healthiness of the city, and in the earlier settlement of the city, judging from the health reports of that day, there was much mortality from fever. But the form of disease is far less common, and when severe does not depend on the climate, but on the manageable type, and seem to be limited to particular parts of the city where improvements are progressing."

"I feel that I cannot too earnestly urge upon your attention the proposition for the Board 'for the establishment of a pest-house,' as also their other recommendations for the health of the city. We cannot appreciate too highly the personal labors of the Board and the importance of sustaining their recommendations, when we reflect that upon the mitigation of individual sickness and suffering, but also the prosperity in the economy of human life and the capacity of its citizens for increased labor, in the diminution of private and public expenses caused by disease, and to a very great extent its morals. In direct connection with this important subject, I call your attention to the fact that, in several instances coming under my own personal observation this summer, large numbers of foreign emigrants have been crowded together in the same buildings and apartments, and the immediate consequence of this was offensive uncleanness, and in one case dangerous disease. It seems to me proper that the Board of Health should be requested to report whether the health of the city will not be seriously affected by the formation, now gradually taking place, of a floating population, in order that the whole subject of the improvement of our rivers, both in regard to health and trade, may be laid before Congress at the next session."

The Board of Health propose to be constructed at the mouth of the sewer corner of 14th street and Pennsylvania avenue to prevent the foul air escaping therefrom, and as I am informed by the President of the Board of Health, with complete success. Its application to similar places seems to me very desirable. The cost was about fifty dollars. I beg leave to renew to you most earnestly the recommendation which I made last year as to the necessity of establishing a general system of sewerage and drainage, the prevention of the accumulation of refuse at particular points both from natural and artificial causes, and also more specific regulations in regard to private sewers. All efforts, however, to preserve the cleanliness of the streets and avenues, to abate various sources of disease, and generally to secure the health of the city, can only be partially successful until Congress shall furnish a full supply of water.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Under the law of November 22, 1850, four new primary schools were established at the commencement of last year, making the total number in active operation twenty-three. Nineteen primary and four district; number of teachers thirty-three; number of pupils 1,899; number of scholars 1,899. Number of pupils admitted through the year, 3,317. Increase over last year, 706. Average attendance in 1849-50, 1,397; do. in 1850-51, 1,765. Number of pupils to each teacher, 64. Average daily attendance to each teacher, 50. Number of scholars at the close of August, 1850, 1,899; do. August, 1851, 2,123. Cost \$12,955 92. Increase in cost over last year \$1,416 78.

Although I feel very confident that the establishment of a high school would elevate the character of our public schools, and advance the standard of education, and that the establishment of a high school, in view of other controlling considerations, to recommend it at this time. As I remarked in a former communication, "it is our duty to diffuse the elements of education among the many, before we attempt to confer upon a few the benefit of a higher education." The cost was about fifty dollars. I beg leave to renew to you most earnestly the recommendation which I made last year as to the necessity of establishing a general system of sewerage and drainage, the prevention of the accumulation of refuse at particular points both from natural and artificial causes, and also more specific regulations in regard to private sewers. All efforts, however, to preserve the cleanliness of the streets and avenues, to abate various sources of disease, and generally to secure the health of the city, can only be partially successful until Congress shall furnish a full supply of water.

Permit me to solicit from you an annual appropriation for a few years of \$1,000 for the purpose of establishing a school library in each district. The suggestion requires no argument to set forth or sustain its merits. There is no library in our city adapted to the mental and moral wants of the pupils of our schools, public or private. With the knowledge, then, of the serious injury we are daily inflicting upon the youth of our city and society in withholding from them the benefit of the library, and the moral improvement, let us promptly apply the remedy. We now have twenty-three schools, and thirty-three teachers, with about two thousand eight hundred scholars. It is well known that the Trustees cannot give that vigilant and constant attention to these schools which is required by the law, and yearly examinations, carefully prepared for display, are wholly inadequate to disclose the merits of teachers or the condition of the schools. This can only be accomplished by the repeated and familiar observation of one accomplished in the art of teaching, capable of detecting and reforming errors and abuses of every kind. By this means only shall we secure a just return for our large expenditures, prepare the schools for a higher standard of instruction, and develop the system to its full capacity. With the strong conviction, however, in favor of the teaching, the appointment of a Superintendent of Public Schools.

POLICE.

It gives me pleasure to say that the new police system has thus far worked well. The Auxiliary Guard, the Police Magistrate, and officers have been regular and active in the discharge of their respective duties; and I am satisfied, from personal observation, that the present system, long as it has been in operation, is the best arrangement, not only for the suppression of disorder, but more especially for securing full and honest returns to the Corporation. So far as I am now able to form an opinion, the system will nearly sustain itself. The amount of judgments in favor of the Corporation for the last four months is \$2,879, a considerable portion of which has been paid, and the greater part of the residue secured by exactions from our citizens, who may have unwittingly contravened the laws of the Corporation, but chiefly from fines for offences against the public peace.

The expense of the present system may be stated as follows:

Salaries of magistrates, officers, and chief of police, per annum..... \$10,600 00
Judgments in favor of Corporation for four months, ending July 31, \$2,879, at the same rate per year..... 5,657 00

From time to time agitated, as was the case last winter. We cannot, however, be removed from the attainment of the object as ever. In my opinion, the reason of this delay in the action of Congress is, that there has been no earnest and well-directed effort emanating from the people or their representatives. Such an effort can no longer be postponed, it seems to me, without reproach to ourselves and injustice to our local legislature, the Congress of the United States, in withholding from them an authoritative exposition of our wants. In the necessity of this reform I include not merely the civil, but the criminal law. The inequality and insufficiency of punishment in certain classes of crimes, of which there are, doubtless, flagrant examples within your own knowledge, is a most serious evil. The inadequacy of punishment in those cases of homicide which, through the uncertain principles of the law, or the tenderness of juries, is reduced from murder to manslaughter, is a fearful recklessness of human life, hardened villainy, with all the characteristics of the most brutal and savage. The inequality of the law, and in the event of conviction, the confidence of expiating the offence by an imprisonment of two to eight years in a comfortable penitentiary. There also exists the very great evil of a multiplicity of petty offences, the trial of which is long deferred. For these, parties are too often subjected before trial to imprisonment in the crowded jail, breathing its infected atmosphere of vice, and in case of conviction, the slight punishment of which is deemed worthy has no real effect in forming inducements to long delay, and from contaminating associations in jail, the petty offence becomes the stepping-stone to crime. I am well aware that the introduction into court of these seemingly trifling cases has been discouraged, but this will certainly result in an accumulation of crime; for, as there is no other tribunal, it will be taken as a license for wrong. They constitute, as in every community, a large class of cases, not sufficiently serious to justify the long delay, dangerous consequences, and enormous expense which attend the trial of these, but yet not so trivial as to be dismissed without punishment, following quickly upon the commission of the offence. I cannot pass over in this connection the evil of gambling, which is well known to exist to a frightful extent in this city. The present laws are very stringent, yet they are boldly defied, and have yet to win of a single conviction under the Penitentiary act. Now and then the fine of \$50 is paid to the Corporation, a small percent. upon the gains from the very victim who may have informed. The failure to convict does not proceed from want of vigilance and effort on the part of the officers of the Government, when a case is brought to their notice, but in the impossibility of proving the offence; and, as a last resort, the ball would be thrown, and the evil in the hands of the community as ever. The remedy must be to invest the Federal or Corporation officers with power to enter these places of infamy, and in a summary manner to abate the evil by the arrest of the parties and the seizure of the premises. The present law, if nothing can be effected, let us at least have law enough which can be executed, to purge our most public avenue of the nuisance. Although the heavy expense of administering the criminal law in this District does not fall upon its citizens, yet it is a burden upon the Government, and it should be advertised to for the information and action of Congress.

If, then, we are satisfied of the necessity of this measure, and that it is demanded by public opinion, let us earnestly present it to Congress upon its own broad merits; let us reclaim it from association with any particular plan or personal controversy; let us not ask for or willingly receive any temporary or partial relief; let us firmly insist not only upon a revision of the present law, but upon a change of the essential system itself. It is proper that we should invite the cooperation of the authorities of Georgetown; that with united purpose and effort we may seek the consummation of this measure. And if so, there can be no doubt that the Congress of the United States, acting not only as the faithful conservator of our rights, but also as the jealous guardian of its own honor, will extend to the seat of Government and its citizens, what is the blessing of many and the curse of few, the enactment of a general law, simple in its terms, and cheap in the facilities of execution.

In concluding this communication, I cannot forbear to congratulate you upon the present condition of our affairs, and to express my confidence that it enjoys a degree of health which compares most favorably with the healthiest cities of the world. It is exempt in a great measure from a vicious and disorderly population; its police has been augmented in numbers and improved in efficiency; its public schools are well established and progressing; its wealth is largely distributed in its healthful currents throughout the community. The Smithsonian Institution is rapidly accomplishing the noble conception by its noble founder, accumulating and disseminating the treasures of science and learning. The presence of the high officers of the General Government and the annual assembling of Congress exercises a favorable influence upon its population, and contributes to the elevation of its character and to the society. The extent and value of the improvements by the Corporation with in the last few years, as also those by private individuals, exceeding in elegance and cost those of any preceding year, manifest a general prosperity and an onward progress. Among the improvements now making by the General Government, the extension of the Capitol and the improvement of the public grounds are more particularly deserving of our notice. The former presents an event which will be a landmark in the history of our country; an era of local advantage and interest to our city, but pre-eminently national in its associations and consequences; the latter, under the cultivated taste of the distinguished projector of the plan of improvement, opens new fountains of beauty and instruction to our city, which has been, it may be said, its own home for many years in the service of the country, and the theatre of its most brilliant achievements.

And to bring home this idea to the present occasion, who does not feel that, when President Washington laid his hand on the foundation of the first Capitol building, he performed a great service to our country, and to the Constitution? Who does not feel that this seat of the General Government, healthful in its situation, central in its position, near the mountains whence gush springs of wonderful virtue, and yet not tinged with Nature's richest products, and yet not tinged with the sea, easily accessible and generally agreeable in climate and association, does give strength to the Union of these States that this city, bearing an immortal name, with its streets and avenues, its public squares, its magnificent edifices of the General Government, erected for the purposes of carrying on within them the important business of the several Departments; for the reception of wonderful and curious inventions, the preservation of the records of American learning and genius; of extensive collections of the products of nature and art, brought hither for study and comparison from all parts of the world; adorned with numerous churches, and sprinkled over, I am happy to say, with many public schools, where the children of the city, without distinction, are provided with the means of obtaining a good education; where there are academies and colleges, professional schools and public libraries, should continue to receive, as it has heretofore received, the care of Congress, and should be regarded as the national property of the National Government. All of which is respectfully submitted.

WALTER LENOX, Mayor.

From time to time agitated, as was the case last winter. We cannot, however, be removed from the attainment of the object as ever. In my opinion, the reason of this delay in the action of Congress is, that there has been no earnest and well-directed effort emanating from the people or their representatives. Such an effort can no longer be postponed, it seems to me, without reproach to ourselves and injustice to our local legislature, the Congress of the United States, in withholding from them an authoritative exposition of our wants. In the necessity of this reform I include not merely the civil, but the criminal law. The inequality and insufficiency of punishment in certain classes of crimes, of which there are, doubtless, flagrant examples within your own knowledge, is a most serious evil. The inadequacy of punishment in those cases of homicide which, through the uncertain principles of the law, or the tenderness of juries, is reduced from murder to manslaughter, is a fearful recklessness of human life, hardened villainy, with all the characteristics of the most brutal and savage. The inequality of the law, and in the event of conviction, the confidence of expiating the offence by an imprisonment of two to eight years in a comfortable penitentiary. There also exists the very great evil of a multiplicity of petty offences, the trial of which is long deferred. For these, parties are too often subjected before trial to imprisonment in the crowded jail, breathing its infected atmosphere of vice, and in case of conviction, the slight punishment of which is deemed worthy has no real effect in forming inducements to long delay, and from contaminating associations in jail, the petty offence becomes the stepping-stone to crime. I am well aware that the introduction into court of these seemingly trifling cases has been discouraged, but this will certainly result in an accumulation of crime; for, as there is no other tribunal, it will be taken as a license for wrong. They constitute, as in every community, a large class of cases, not sufficiently serious to justify the long delay, dangerous consequences, and enormous expense which attend the trial of these, but yet not so trivial as to be dismissed without punishment, following quickly upon the commission of the offence. I cannot pass over in this connection the evil of gambling, which is well known to exist to a frightful extent in this city. The present laws are very stringent, yet they are boldly defied, and have yet to win of a single conviction under the Penitentiary act. Now and then the fine of \$50 is paid to the Corporation, a small percent. upon the gains from the very victim who may have informed. The failure to convict does not proceed from want of vigilance and effort on the part of the officers of the Government, when a case is brought to their notice, but in the impossibility of proving the offence; and, as a last resort, the ball would be thrown, and the evil in the hands of the community as ever. The remedy must be to invest the Federal or Corporation officers with power to enter these places of infamy, and in a summary manner to abate the evil by the arrest of the parties and the seizure of the premises. The present law, if nothing can be effected, let us at least have law enough which can be executed, to purge our most public avenue of the nuisance. Although the heavy expense of administering the criminal law in this District does not fall upon its citizens, yet it is a burden upon the Government, and it should be advertised to for the information and action of Congress.

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And to bring home this idea to the present occasion, who does not feel that, when President Washington laid his hand on the foundation of the first Capitol building, he performed a great service to our country, and to the Constitution? Who does not feel that this seat of the General Government, healthful in its situation, central in its position, near the mountains whence gush springs of wonderful virtue, and yet not tinged with Nature's richest products, and yet not tinged with the sea, easily accessible and generally agreeable in climate and association, does give strength to the Union of these States that this city, bearing an immortal name, with its streets and avenues, its public squares, its magnificent edifices of the General Government, erected for the purposes of carrying on within them the important business of the several Departments; for the reception of wonderful and curious inventions, the preservation of the records of American learning and genius; of extensive collections of the products of nature and art, brought hither for study and comparison from all parts of the world; adorned with numerous churches, and sprinkled over, I am happy to say, with many public schools, where the children of the city, without distinction, are provided with the means of obtaining a good education; where there are academies and colleges, professional schools and public libraries, should continue to receive, as it has heretofore received, the care of Congress, and should be regarded as the national property of the National Government. All of which is respectfully submitted.

WALTER LENOX, Mayor.

From time to time agitated, as was the case last winter. We cannot, however, be removed from the attainment of the object as ever. In my opinion, the reason of this delay in the action of Congress is, that there has been no earnest and well-directed effort emanating from the people or their representatives. Such an effort can no longer be postponed, it seems to me, without reproach to ourselves and injustice to our local legislature, the Congress of the United States, in withholding from them an authoritative exposition of our wants. In the necessity of this reform I include not merely the civil, but the criminal law. The inequality and insufficiency of punishment in certain classes of crimes, of which there are, doubtless, flagrant examples within your own knowledge, is a most serious evil. The inadequacy of punishment in those cases of homicide which, through the uncertain principles of the law, or the tenderness of juries, is reduced from murder to manslaughter, is a fearful recklessness of human life, hardened villainy, with all the characteristics of the most brutal and savage. The inequality of the law, and in the event of conviction, the confidence of expiating the offence by an imprisonment of two to eight years in a comfortable penitentiary. There also exists the very great evil of a multiplicity of petty offences, the trial of which is long deferred. For these, parties are too often subjected before trial to imprisonment in the crowded jail, breathing its infected atmosphere of vice, and in case of conviction, the slight punishment of which is deemed worthy has no real effect in forming inducements to long delay, and from contaminating associations in jail, the petty offence becomes the stepping-stone to crime. I am well aware that the introduction into court of these seemingly trifling cases has been discouraged, but this will certainly result in an accumulation of crime; for, as there is no other tribunal, it will be taken as a license for wrong. They constitute, as in every community, a large class of cases, not sufficiently serious to justify the long delay, dangerous consequences, and enormous expense which attend the trial of these, but yet not so trivial as to be dismissed without punishment, following quickly upon the commission of the offence. I cannot pass over in this connection the evil of gambling, which is well known to exist to a frightful extent in this city. The present laws are very stringent, yet they are boldly defied, and have yet to win of a single conviction under the Penitentiary act. Now and then the fine of \$50 is paid to the Corporation, a small percent. upon the gains from the very victim who may have informed. The failure to convict does not proceed from want of vigilance and effort on the part of the officers of the Government, when a case is brought to their notice, but in the impossibility of proving the offence; and, as a last resort, the ball would be thrown, and the evil in the hands of the community as ever. The remedy must be to invest the Federal or Corporation officers with power to enter these places of infamy, and in a summary manner to abate the evil by the arrest of the parties and the seizure of the premises. The present law, if nothing can be effected, let us at least have law enough which can be executed, to purge our most public avenue of the nuisance. Although the heavy expense of administering the criminal law in this District does not fall upon its citizens, yet it is a burden upon the Government, and it should be advertised to for the information and action of Congress.

If, then, we are satisfied of the necessity of this measure, and that it is demanded by public opinion, let us earnestly present it to Congress upon its own broad merits; let us reclaim it from association with any particular plan or personal controversy; let us not ask for or willingly receive any temporary or partial relief; let us firmly insist not only upon a revision of the present law, but upon a change of the essential system itself. It is proper that we should invite the cooperation of the authorities of Georgetown; that with united purpose and effort we may seek the consummation of this measure. And if so, there can be no doubt that the Congress of the United States, acting not only as the faithful